

22 October 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information & Management Support  
Staff, OL

FROM:

[REDACTED]

Chief, Printing & Photography Division, OL

SUBJECT: Suggestions for a Special Award

REFERENCE: Note to OL Division/Staff Chiefs, dtd.  
14 October 1986

1. The establishment of special awards now under consideration by the DDA is an interesting idea and is one that I hope comes to fruition. Having said this, I believe it would be an unwise choice for the DDA to follow the lead of the DDS&T when it comes time for him to select the specific job categories from which employees are to be chosen. I am probably in the minority, but nevertheless of the opinion that categories such as contracting officer, computer specialist, engineer, scientist, etc., could be construed as smacking of elitism. Consequently, awards of this nature generally do not get the wide acceptance of the general DA population, a goal I feel the DDA is trying to accomplish.

2. I appreciate the eagerness of the DD/S&T to bestow honors on engineers and scientists, as they comprise a large and very important part of that Directorate. Nevertheless, I find it ironic that awards are being contemplated for incumbents in these job categories who are continually being rewarded via special salary compensations within our General Schedule pay structure. This leads me to the question of what is being offered to the logisticians, security officers, communicators, medics, personnel officers, etc., who are providing essential support to the engineers and scientists without the benefit of added compensation.

3. I suggest that the better approach would be for the DDA to recognize individuals for their contributions within DA Offices. I am of the opinion that a Logistician of the Year, Security Officer, Communications Officer, etc., would offer more appropriate categories from which to choose than would adherence to strict occupational disciplines. We live in an environment of generalists; we should acknowledge this fact with an awards system that takes a macro look at employees' accomplishments. I find it appealing to think that an employee of RECD, SD, PD, FMD, and yes, even a printer could be considered for a Logistician of the Year award, for example, regardless of his/her type of formal degree or occupational title.

4. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this subject. I am cognizant of the fact that my suggestion pretty much destroys the DDA's concept of Agency- and Government-wide recognition for recipients of special awards in the way I limited categories to Office-level consideration. Perhaps the cash stipend should be more limited than that contained in the proposal of the DDS&T as well. I leave that to the better judgment of others. In any event, I submit that the proposal for Office-level special award categories would gain wide acceptance by the DA population in general and deserves some consideration.

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